

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. A telephone characterized by a voice activity detector comprising:
 - a band reject filter having an input and an output;
 - 5 a first band pass filter having an input and an output;
 - a comparator coupled to the output of the band reject filter and the band pass filter.
2. The telephone as set forth in claim 1 wherein said band reject filter includes:
 - a second band pass filter having an input coupled to the input of said band reject filter and an output;
 - 10 an amplifier having an inverting input coupled to the output of the band pass filter, a non-inverting input coupled to the input of said band reject filter, and an output coupled to said comparator.
3. The telephone as set forth in claim 1 wherein the center frequency of the band pass filter and the center frequency of the band reject filter are substantially the same.
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4. The telephone as set forth in claim 1 wherein the frequency response of the band reject filter is slightly broader than the frequency response of the band pass filter.
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5. The telephone as set forth in claim 1 wherein the band reject filter includes a low pass filter having a cut-off frequency below the center frequency of the band pass filter.
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6. The telephone as set forth in claim 5 wherein the band reject filter further includes a high pass filter having a cut-off frequency above the center frequency of the band pass filter.

7. A method for detecting voice in a telephone having a predetermined voice band, said method comprising the steps of:

comparing the amplitude of a first signal within the voice band with a second signal outside the voice band;

5 providing a first output when the ratio of the first signal to the second signal is below a predetermined value; and

providing a second output when the ratio of the first signal to the second signal is above the predetermined value, wherein one of the first output and the second output indicates the presence of a voice signal.

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8. The method as set forth in claim 7 and including the step of:

adjusting the ratio to favor an indication of the absence of a voice signal.